

We've Moved Online!

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we have decided to err on the side of caution and hold the conference via the Internet. We thought about this long and hard, because we know there are those of you who do not use a computer. But at the end of the day, this seemed to be the only truly safe option.

At the time of this printing, we are planning the following:

All speakers will record their presentations, which will be posted to a private YouTube channel. We anticipate that those videos will be available by mid-January. *Participants will need to have reviewed the presentations prior to February 13.*

On February 13, multiple Zoom* meetings will be held so that you can interact directly and in real time with the speakers. There will be two sessions with four workshops in each session. You can attend one workshop at 10:15 a.m. and another at 10:55 a.m. This is not so different from the way we used to do things.

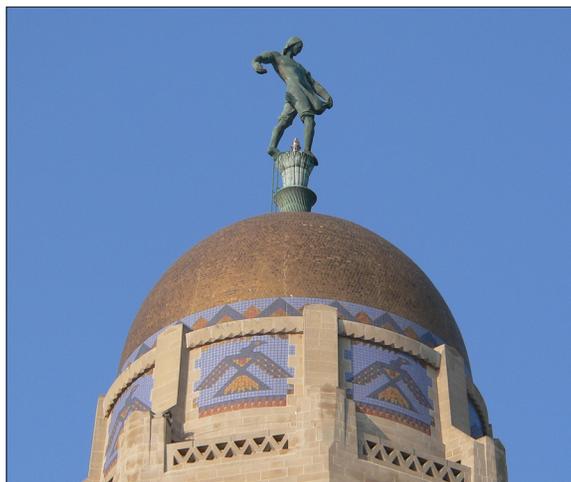
Apart from interacting with the speaker via your computer, tablet, or phone, the real difference will be that the speakers will only provide updates to the information in their videos and will take questions in Q&A workshops on February 13. *They will not repeat what is in their videos.*

You will receive an email with video viewing instructions and information on submitting questions to the presenters for the live sessions.

**Zoom is a computer program that allows multiple people to video chat. That is, you are able to see the person you're talking to as you're talking to them. The program has gained popularity lately as it is commonly used by schools to allow students and teachers to interact much as they would in the classroom.*

Conference Goals

- *To provide information about particular concerns we all share*
- *To learn how these issues are being addressed in our legislature*
- *To call together leadership in various disciplines to share their knowledge and insight about the issues*
- *To provide information about how to contact our senators regarding bills being debated and how their passage/defeat might affect us*
- *To provide material to share with church groups, family, friends and neighbors*



Contributors:

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United Methodist Women of the
Great Plains Conference;
Church Women United, Nebraska, Inc;
Church Women United of Lincoln

www.nelegisbrief.org



Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day

Saturday
February 13, 2021
9:30 a.m. - Noon

This year the conference will be held virtually.

While we are offering this day free to participants this year, we welcome any donations to support our work.

Workshop Topics & Presenters

Breaking News: "The Very Latest From the Legislature," Rev. Carol Windrum and a group of young adults (Session 1)

Climate Change: "What's Happening to Our Common Home?" Martha Shulski, Ph.D., Nebraska State Climatologist & Associate Professor, School of Natural Resources, UNL (Session 1)

Education: "Public School Funding: Threats and Opportunities," Ann Hunter Pirtle, Executive Director & Founder, Stand For Schools (Session 1)

Gerrymandering: "Redistricting 2020: Will There Be Gerrymandering?" Steve Dunbar, Professor of Mathematics, UNL (Retired) and Kristie Pfabe, Professor of Mathematics, Nebraska Wesleyan University (Session 2)

Immigration: "Refugees in Nebraska: Who Are They and How Can We Welcome Them?" Lacey Studnicka, Program Director, Habitat for Humanity, Omaha (Session 1)

Racial Justice: "Racial Justice in Nebraska," Adam Morfeld, Nebraska State Senator, Legislative District 46 (Session 2)

Taxation & Budget: "Building Nebraska's Budget With Taxpayers in Mind," Tony Vargas, Nebraska State Senator, Legislative District 7 (Session 2)

Workplace Rights: "Defending Workers' Rights in Nebraska," Megan Hunt, Nebraska State Senator, Legislative District 8 (Session 2)

Our Mission

We operate under the assumption that living out of God's grace means, at least in part, fighting for justice for those oppressed or in need whose voices go unheard. We believe that ordinary citizens can take action on behalf of the disadvantaged by advocating for just laws. The purpose of the day, then, is help voters of the State of Nebraska better understand upcoming legislation in the Unicameral and the effects of that legislation in order that they may advocate for justice through the passage of laws that protect the rights and address the needs of the less fortunate.

Feb. 13 Schedule

9:30 a.m.

Zoom meeting rooms open

9:45 - 10:10 a.m.

Welcome, Prayer, Reflection, Introduction

10:15-10:45 a.m.

Participants connect to a live **Session 1** workshop Q&A meeting. Choose one:

1. Breaking News
2. Climate Change
3. Education
4. Immigration

10:55-11:25 a.m.

Participants connect to a live **Session 2** workshop Q&A meeting. Choose one:

5. Gerrymandering
6. Racial Justice
7. Taxation & Budget
8. Workplace Rights

11:30 a.m. - Noon

Advocacy:

Communicating With Your State Senator Closing

"Working for Justice"

2021 Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day

February 13, 2021

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

To Register Online

Go to our website, click on the Registration tab, and scroll down to the registration link. (The link will take you to a Great Plains Conference UMW page, so don't be surprised.)

To Register by Mail

Fill in your preferred workshops below. Detach this panel, fill it out, put it in an envelope, and mail it to: Ecumenical Legislative Day, c/o Dianne Dickey, 8115 Sanborn Drive, Lincoln, NE 68505

If you are mailing in your registration, list the workshop Q&A Zoom meetings you wish to attend (one meeting per session):

Session 1 workshop Q&A number: _____

Session 2 workshop Q&A number: _____

**Deadline for Registration
February 5, 2021**

You must be registered to view the videos and send us questions for the live Q&A workshops. So register early!

Questions?

Contact Vicki Leech
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